

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows



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www.sitmnev.org

Giving Thanks and Giving Back this Holiday Season

As we reach the end of the year it is easy to become overwhelmed with holiday parties, decorating, buying gifts, but it is also the season for giving thanks, and giving back. This is something that we, as Soroptimists, do very well.

Our involvement through Salvation Army Senior Gift Delivery is one of my favorite programs. This year, I had the opportunity to spend the morning with VP/Technical Rikki and her two children, Maddie and Caleb, along with my two children, Cheyenne and Aiden. It was powerful to see how a kind word and a small gift can bring so much joy to one person, especially when brought by children.

As a parent, I think it is important to teach children to give back. If they see that you put a lot of value on assisting others, then they will too. This year was also extra special because my husband was able to join us as well. My husband works for UPS and the idea of delivering packages on his day off during the Christmas season ...well, is not his idea of a good time.

But, I could see that he was enjoying it, and was touched by the individual reactions of each person.

I would like to say a special thank you to Diana Dillon for all of her hard work to ensure this event runs smoothly every year. I had the opportunity to spend a portion of Friday helping prepare the gifts for delivery, allowing me to witness firsthand the amount of work that actually goes into this event.

Congratulations to the IGU Committee for being selected as one of the grant recipients of the SI President's

Appeal "Educate To Lead: Nepal" for our program "Removing Barriers to Education in Nepal". Thank you to Connie Steinheimer and to all those who had helped bring this to fruition. This is an amazing achievement that wouldn't have happened without our members' aspirations to better our club and world.

May your hearts and home be filled with all of the joys the holidays bring. Wishing you and your loved ones a healthy and happy New Year! Thank you for your gift of service.

President Vivian

Making Spirits Bright During Senior Gift Delivery

SITM members, family and friends gave up their Saturday, December 12 to bring some Christmas tidings and holiday cheer to some of the areas senior citizens. The Salvation Army collects gifts from community members for needy seniors each year and SITM members make the deliveries.

The day started with breakfast at Northin' to It Culinary Center for those wishing to participate. Then it was off to the Salvation Army warehouse to pick up the gifts that had been grouped into routes for teams of members to deliver.

Thank you to Diana Dillon and her team of SITM elves for spending time Friday making

sense of the packages, routes and deliveries for smooth processing on Saturday. Diana also acts as liaison with the Salvation Army, handles arrangements for breakfast and signs up members to participate.

Members of SI/Reno join us each year sharing in the joy of deliveries.

See more photos on pages 9 & 10

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President Vivian Ruiz and her family, husband Ed, and children Cheyenne and Aiden.



SITM Awarded \$20,000 “Educate to Lead: Nepal” Grant

By Paula Ringkob

“Educate to Lead: Nepal” is Soroptimist International’s 2015-2017 President’s Appeal. It was launched on December 10, 2015 with the announcement of the first three projects to be funded.

The \$20,000 grant submitted by the IGU Committee on October 1 is one of these projects! The December 10 announcement describes the project this way.

“With the Educate to Lead: Nepal” grant, SI Truckee Meadows will remove the barriers to education for 20 girls when they move into the dormitory for 2 years to attend school. Room & board, tuition, books, supplies and uniforms will all be paid. A micro-lending program will be available to them when they finish, allowing them to start a small business. Since the launch of the microcredit program the club has experienced a 100% repayment rate. The girls will be selected in December, 2015 for a class that will begin at the end of the first quarter.”

The other two projects to be funded are:

Australian Himalayan Foundation – This foundation works to help the people of the Himalayas through improvements in health, education and conservation in Nepal. SI funds will provide training for 100 teachers, including gender sensitivity training, and also extend the scholarship program by providing 14 girls with vocational training.

Tharu Women’s Project – SI Oita-Midori, Japan Minami Region – This SI club has worked with the women in Tharu for 20 years. Three training centers have been opened offering literacy classes and skills training. Microcredit loans are also available. The SI President’s Appeal grant will purchase 20 computers and offer computer literacy classes to women with a goal of



training 200 women over five years.

As donations are raised by the President’s Appeal, more grants will be offered to change the lives of women and girls in Nepal through education.

The full text of the “Educate to Lead: Nepal” will be available at the SITM website.

Friendship Link Club News

SI Puné Metro East “Fistful of Grain” Program

By Monica House

The National Association of Soroptimist International of India (NASI) set a goal this year to get all 14 SI clubs involved in its national project “Fistful of Grain” in their local communities. The goal of this program is to fight against malnutrition in deprived children in their societies.

SI Puné Metro East’s members decided they would contribute to this worthy cause by providing grain four times a year to different local organizations. The first organization they supplied grains to was Emanuel Public School, a school for underprivileged children of housemaids, security guards, and construction workers.

On October 1, SIPME donated 30 kgs of rice (approximately 66 pounds) and 8 kgs (approximately 18 pounds) of tur dal (a form of lentil bean) to Emmanuel School as their first installment of the NASI project. The students at this school are completely dependent upon sponsors for their mid-day meal and the school was very grateful for the donation.

Calendar

- December 17 – Hospitality – Holiday Social
- December 24 – Dark- Holiday
- December 31 – Dark – Holiday
- January 7 – Making A Difference For Women
- January 12 - Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Disability Resources
- January 11 -- National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness
- January 14 – Business Meeting, Atlantis
- January 21 – Education Women
- January 28 – Health

You can follow our weekly activities on:



Member Feature: **Jeanne Naccarato**

A Commitment to Making a Difference

By Norma J. Charette

Jeanne Naccarato was born in Stockton, California in 1952, and lived there until her family moved to Reno when she was in the third grade. Her father, George, was a glazier and worked for Alpine Glass Company; her mother, Corrine worked as a medical social worker for Washoe County. Since her father was George, Jr., he chose to name his daughters Georgene and Georgann. However, his daughters chose to go by Jeanne and Jan, unless using their given names was necessary! When Jeanne's younger brother Scott came along, she got to name him and she named him after a cute boy in her homeroom, adding David as his middle name to honor her grandfather. Jeanne's younger sister, Jan, sadly passed away two years ago as a result of a heart condition; and her younger brother, Scott, currently lives in the Reno area with his family and their newborn son, Logan, born on November 10.

Jeanne graduated from Reno High School and shortly after started working full time for Nevada Bell. The company gave her a great offer to work while paying her tuition to further her education while attending the University of Nevada – Reno. She worked diligently while continuing her studies and was able to successfully complete her BA in Secondary Education in English at UNR. However, there were no job openings for English teachers so Jeanne stayed with Ma Bell and taught and/or wrote curriculums for everything from "How To Be a Long Distance Operator" to "Writing Effective Documentation".

During her college days, Jeanne had the good fortune to extend her academic studies and traveled abroad during the summer months. This time allowed her to travel to Europe and tour 16 countries her first summer. She continued her studies and travel adventures each summer.

Jeanne's first marriage resulted in the birth of her three loving children, a son Donald (35), daughter Emily (33) and son Paul (25).

In the early 1980's Jeanne moved to San Bruno, California and got the opportunity to work for Pacific Bell's headquarters based out of San Francisco. In the early 1990's she divorced and re-located to Pleasanton, California while continuing to work for Pacific Bell in their San Ramon location. It was at this time that she met the love of her life, current husband of 15 years, Drew Naccarato, during a routine "car-pool" ride-along that extended into some time spent together at a church group they both attended.

In 2000, Jeanne and Drew married and collectively have a beautifully balanced, well-blended family of six adult children; three boys and three girls; referred by both Jeanne and Drew as the new age "Brady Bunch" family.

In 1991, Drew's job moved them to Edmond, Oklahoma and Jeanne worked as a part time Special Teachers Aid and was eventually hired on as a Special Education Teacher on a full time basis at Edmond North High School, a highly ranked academic and Blue Ribbon School.

In 2010 Jeanne continued her educational path and completed a Masters of Special Education from the University of Central Oklahoma. It was then she

discovered she had always been in the "special education" field her entire life. This realization came to light during her days of working at the telephone company. She, in theory, taught CEO's, Vice Presidents and account executive type employees for 30 plus years and many of whom showed "signs of Autism, ADD and/or ADHD, and behavior disorders"; some had short attention spans, albeit brilliant individuals, but did not necessarily have the gift of social skills.

In 2014, Jeanne made the decision to officially retire from teaching to move back

to the Reno area to assist with the care of her mother, an energetic and wise woman of 89 years. Drew and Jeanne bought a house in the Caughlin Ranch community of Reno and Drew has since stayed in Oklahoma in the interim until they sell their family home in Edmond, Oklahoma and will return to Reno with Jeanne.

In her spare time, Jeanne's interests include walking and her love of cooking/baking, especially desserts like fudge and yummy scones. In her free time, she loves to go to the movies and loves to broaden her viewing pleasure by watching all genres of movies with the exception of HORROR films. She loves spending time



Jeanne and husband Drew.

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Jeanne Naccarato, continued from page 3

with her family and her grandchildren the most. Her most recent interest is learning to crochet and a big thank you for our current SITM member Pam Robinson, for teaching her that craft.

Jeanne has many talents and interests that go above and beyond her gift of teaching and that is in "giving back to the community" that she lives in and serves. She has showcased that talent and passion in many ways since returning to Reno in that she has joined the ranks of the teaching profession on a part time basis to be able to work with special needs children in the community. Jeanne learned about SITM from her wonderful neighbor and future sponsor, Kathy Benson, and decided to join SITM in the fall 2015 as she wanted to get further involved in the community and decided what better way to do this than to become a full-fledged Soroptimist. Her favorite Soroptimist "moment to date" is when she recently received her first rose for working during the Wine Walk and collecting donations for the lovely wine charms.



Jeanne, Drew and family.

December Board & Business Update and Meeting Highlights

By Faye I. Andersen

Editor's Note: Don't forget the holiday party is Thursday, December 17. Bring an ornament to exchange (not to exceed \$10) and wear your best Christmas sweater. Be prepared for holiday cheer, fun and games.

The December Board and Business Meetings were short; a sign that committees are doing their work and members are busy completing projects. However business was still conducted on several items.

SI President's Appeal Grant Awarded to SITM

Connie Steinheimer, on behalf of the IGU Committee, announced that SITM's grant application for the SI December 10th President's Appeal Grant was accepted. SITM's proposal is to remove the barriers to education for 20 girls when they move into the dormitory for two years to attend school. SITM's proposal was one of three selected by SI President Yvonne Simpson and a review panel. For the complete story, see page 2.

Change to March Business Meeting

The membership approved a motion brought by the IGU Committee to switch two meetings in March – delaying the Board Meeting to March 24 and freeing up the March 10 meeting for the possibility of a special guest and presentation. Watch for future announcements.

District V Winter Council Meeting Collaboration

The membership approved a motion to join SI/Reno and SI/Washoe County in hosting the District V Winter Council meeting in Reno on Saturday, February 6. Location and details are TBA, but plan to attend and volunteer to help, if you can.

SI/Reno and Soroptiwear Joining SITM on December 17

SI/Reno requested and was granted permission to join SITM members at the December 17 Holiday Social. Their members will be bringing their Soroptiwear for purchase.

Happy Dollars for November

Happy Dollars in the amount of \$223 were collected in November on behalf of the Volunteers of America, Women's Shelter. December Happy Dollars are designated for the SI President's Appeal, "Educare to Lead: Nepal".

Member Leaves

No new leaves were requested. Remaining on leave are Lynne Catrow through December 31 for work reasons; Kathy Hudson through March 1 for health reasons; Monica House through March 1 for personal and health reasons. We hope to see you ladies soon.

Return of the Holiday Boutique to SITM



Kay Dunham, at right, examines some of the beautiful jewelry Penney Leezy, left, brought to the Holiday Boutique.



Jan Bogikes, displays some of her hand-sewn Christmas stockings and ingenious fabric covers.



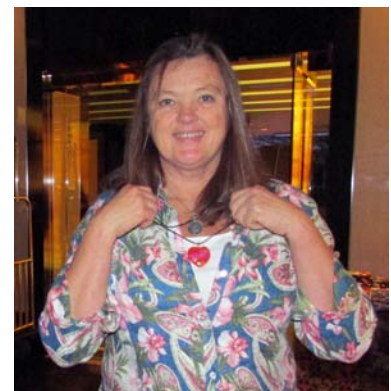
Artist Eileen Fuller, seated, has a word with Georgia Baker, next to Eileen's miniature paintings and ornaments.



Barbara Arwell, foreground, Liza Chapen, behind, and Maryann Decker rest some of the wares Elena brought from Alisia Peter's We Olive Wine Bar.



Jo Ann Roberts and Pam Robinson are checking out some of Pam Sutton's, exquisitely made glass jewelry.



Pam Sutton shows off one of her handmade glass pendants.

Anti-Human Trafficking Speaker Joanne Tremeling

By Doris Phelps

Spread the word. Educate yourself, your family and your community. Support organizations which fight sex trafficking. Report suspicious behaviors. Advocate. Engage the community in an awareness-building forum. These were just a few of the ways that Soroptimists can get involved with the efforts to end sex trafficking in our community.

Joanne brought startling awareness to our members at the December 3 meeting. She stated that more than 100,000 children are involved in this underground industry in the U.S. After drug trafficking and counterfeiting, it is the world's most profitable criminal activity. Victims range between the ages of 12 and 19, mostly girls. It was shocking to learn that runaway foster children are among the victims and that these children are not reported as missing by their foster parents, thereby allowing the parents to continue collecting financial support – a double exploitation of these kids.

There is hope emerging: schools are offering classroom programs to educate students on the dangers, and law enforcement agencies and courts are working more closely with anti-trafficking organizations to decriminalize the victims and help provide them support.

Carol Dinneen, Human Rights/Status of Women Committee member, says "Joanne's stories about individuals really tugged at my heart strings but also made me really angry that this is happening. Perhaps now is a good time to approach the club about supporting Awaken (local anti-trafficking nonprofit organization) in a major way."

The U.S. Senate has designated January 11 as the National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness, an opportunity to raise awareness about sexual trafficking and advocate for its victims. There is federal legislation pending under proposed Senate Bill 178 and Soroptimist International has created the Soroptimists STOP Trafficking project. Stay tuned for more information from the Human Rights/Status of Women Committee.

How to spot a potentially trafficked child:

- Out late at night and often appearing to be alone.
- Dressed age inappropriately.
- Unable to make eye contact
- Exhibits fearful or anxious behavior
- Is in poor physical or mental health
- Appears malnourished

These are just a few of the signs to watch for in human trafficking victims.

What to do?

Call 911 and request a "Welfare Check on a Minor Child" which requires authorities to respond in a timely manner.



Joanne Tremelling, Sierra Nevada Region Stop Trafficking Coordinator, center, is flanked by Doris Phelps, Human Rights/Status of Women Coordinator and President Vivian Ruiz following the December 3 meeting.

Applications Now Available for Women's Scholarships

By Pam Robinson

The Education Women Committee has distributed applications to TMCC, UNR, and other northern Nevada colleges for our Gomes/Gojack and Jack Simon scholarships. The Gomes/Gojack scholarships are for undergraduate, re-entry women who are pursuing a four-year degree or a health sciences degree of some kind at the community college level. The maximum award for the undergrad scholarships is \$6,000. The Jack Simon scholarships are for graduate students. The maximum graduate award is typically \$4,000.

The deadline to apply for the SITM scholarships is February 15, 2016. The scholarship application is on the SITM website. The scholarship application is now fillable and was revised to make it easier and less time consuming for our applicants.

Over the past 35 years, we have awarded \$951,100 in scholarships to over 379 women!

If you know of a deserving woman, please ask her to apply for one of these scholarships!

Human Rights Day: We Are So Fortunate

By Liza Chapen

Fortunate: An adjective meaning blessed, charmed, lucky, favored. Synonyms include wealthy, rich, affluent, prosperous, opulent, comfortable.

Human Rights Day is observed every year on December 10. It commemorates the day on which, in 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A milestone document in the history of human rights, the most translated in the world, it was proclaimed "a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations." It sets out fundamental human rights to be universally protected and consists of a preamble and 30 articles. In 1950, the Assembly passed a resolution inviting all States and interested organizations to observe December 10 each year as Human Rights Day.

Because Soroptimist International is one of those interested organizations which chooses to observe Human Rights Day, in early December of each year, Soroptimists around the globe commemorate the adoption of the Declaration of Human Rights by acknowledging it and discussing it in some fashion.

On behalf of the Human Rights/Status of Women Committee, I've been asked to address this topic in an article for the newsletter, so I've spent the last several weeks thinking about how fortunate we members of SITM are when it comes to Human Rights. The socioeconomic status that we enjoy enables us a freedom enjoyed by only a percentage of women both here in America and abroad.

Because of the work that we do as a club, we have many opportunities to see how fortunate we are. In every one of our projects -- from Thanks to Youth all the way to our scholarships, and everything in between -- we interact with the women and children we meet through these projects and we can't help but remember how fortunate we are to be who we are. And we can't help but feel fortunate that we're in a position to work together to increase the opportunities for dignity and worth for our recipients.

The Human Rights/Status of Women Committee recently had a discussion of the rights we members

of SITM enjoy and take for granted, things like driving a car, owning a home, working outside the home, owning a business, attending school, holding public office, worshipping where and as we please, and so much more. We have complete freedom to be and do anything we choose. We have all worked very hard to be where we are in life, but in terms of human rights, we have them in spades!

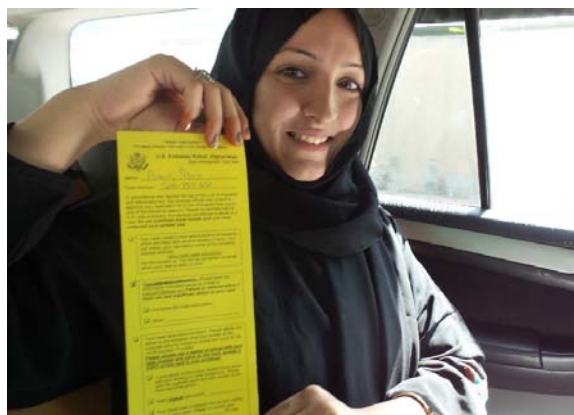
Just in the last several months, SITM members have been able to witness two very vivid reminders of how life is profoundly different for women in other countries. Jeanne and Connie told us about a young woman in our dormitory in Thulipokhari, Nepal, who wants to be a truck driver. Women in Nepal don't drive, period. Yet she wants to be a truck driver. If an American woman wants to be a truck driver, she takes whatever steps are necessary and eventually becomes one. Just ask our own Transportation Specialist, Barbara Atwell.

Some profound reminders of the blessings SITM members experience come from "our own" Asma Aimal. Kay Dunham told us that she was planning to take Asma to The Nutcracker this month, and Asma told her that she has never been to a live performance of any kind in her entire life. Can you just imagine? You've heard it yourself during happy dollars: SITM members have the ability to attend live performances any time they wish, because if the performance we want to attend is in another city, we get in our cars and go -- or take the Party Bus.

Or we could fly -- and we do fly anywhere we want. For the first time in her life, Asma flew on an airplane when she came from Afghanistan, and a most remarkable part of that is that she flew alone from Kabul to Dubai, where Kay was waiting for her. This is something an Afghan woman would never be able to do, yet she was courageous enough to do it.

Now that she is a student here in America, she is free to walk alone on the campus, have coffee with a friend at Starbucks, wear jeans or anything she chooses. Another first for Asma is studying in a co-ed classroom.

While Asma enjoys her new freedom and independence here in America, back in Afghanistan, women historically don't work once they are married. Her mother, a physician by education, is not allowed to practice her



Asma, the day she received her US visa in Kabul.

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profession. Her husband wouldn't permit her to work. He died recently in an accident, but her mother still has five younger children at home. Life is very difficult for women in Afghanistan.

For all of us who are SITM members, December 10, Human Rights Day, is an excellent time to look at how very fortunate we are and to feel blessed, charmed, lucky, favored and even wealthy, rich, affluent, prosperous, opulent, comfortable. Wouldn't you agree?



Asma in American jeans with cell phone in hand at an SITM meeting.

Live Your Dream Award Recipients to be Recognized in January

By Norma J. Charette

The Education-Women Committee, co-coordinated by Pam Robinson and Margie Hermanson has reviewed several applicants for our Live Your Dream Award and has selected two deserving award recipients this year.

Madison Holland is the LYD recipient in the amount of \$800 and her application will be forwarded to the Sierra Nevada Region for further consideration. Veronica Villareal is our "special" LYD recipient in the amount of \$700.

Recipients provide the primary financial support for their families: must be enrolled in, or have been accepted to a vocational/skills training program or an undergraduate degree program; and must demonstrate financial need.

The Committee is working on securing a luncheon speaker for the award luncheon and will provide details once we receive confirmation. Please join us as we

celebrate and recognize these deserving ladies at the LYD Award Luncheon which will be held Thursday, January 21, 2016.

The Live Your Dream Awards involve three levels of cash awards. The program begins at the local Soroptimist club-level, where award amounts vary. Local-level award recipients become eligible for region-level awards of either \$3,000 or \$5,000. Region-level award recipients then become eligible to receive one of three international-level awards of \$10,000.

Update on Making A Difference for Women Seminar

By Norma J. Charette

The all-day seminar is designed to help unemployed or under-employed women trying to return to the workforce, the skills, confidence and contacts they need to meet the challenges of full time employment. The committee, led by Rikki Hensely-Ricker convened Monday, November 30 to assign team leaders and start the process of securing volunteers for the day-long event.

The official date has been set and is a bit earlier than last year so please mark your calendars for Saturday, February 13, 2016, at the Atlantis Hotel and Casino. We are hoping to secure as many volunteers as possible as there are many moving parts and pieces to successfully hosting the day-long program. Please feel free to reach out to committee members to offer your assistance.

Drop off your donations at Ethan Allen

Ethan Allen (located at 9065 S. Virginia Street, Reno) has graciously agreed to be the SITM designated location for collection of donations (clothes and accessories) that will be available at the "Clothes Closet" during the day-long seminar.

Donation Hours: Tuesday – Saturday; 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.

Donation Drop Off: Near the flagpole and be sure you mention the donation is for Making A Difference so not to be confused with the items to be placed in the SITM Garage Sale area.

****Please mark the size(s) on the clothing items and provide hangars to allow for easy storage and transportation.**

If you have any questions please contact co-team coordinators Norma Charette and/or Jeanne Naccarato.

Making Spirits Bright During Senior Gift Delivery

Anna McArdle, Norma Charette and Jeff DeMatei. (Diana Dillon's friend) at breakfast.



Some of the Soropti-kids deliver a gift to a senior. From left: Maddie and Caleb (Rikki Hensley Ricker's kids) and Cheyenne and Aiden (Vivian Ruiz's kids).



Deliveries are made at one of the senior housing facilities. From left: Margie Hermanson, Pam Robinson, Connie Sreinheimer and Vicki Schultz.



Members of the sorting team break long enough for a photo. From left: Diana's friend Jeff DeMatei, President Vivian Ruiz, Diana Dillon, Bev Perkins (way in the back), Jean Neddenriep and her friend Lou Zirelli, and Doris Phelps.



Kay Dunham with Rikki Hensley-Ricker and her children Caleb and Maddie.



Joanna Moran and family at breakfast.



Valerie Sumersille-Hahn and family and friend, both two and four-legged.

Bev Perkins and Dot Watts checking packages before heading out for deliveries.



Kay Dunham's antler-wearing helpers, from left, Asma Aimal, Kim Beach (daughter-in-law), Mia Myers (Kim's daughter) and Mia's friend Bianca.

Mitch and Becky Moody, Marilyn Pearson and her Big Brothers and Big Sisters "little" Jaci and Patti Dory have finished breakfast and are ready for deliveries.



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 P.O. Box 20125 • Reno, NV 89515
www.sitmnev.org

President Vivian Ruiz
vrui@disabilityresouresnv.com

Editor Faye I. Andersen
fia@pyramid.net or
fandersen@nvenergy.com
 775-358-5149 or 834-4822

Newsletter Committee
 Liza Chapen
 Niki Ewing
 Paula Ringkob
 Jo Ann Roberts
 Norma J. Charette

Also contributing to this issue
 Vivian Ruiz
 Kay Dunham
 Doris Phelps
 Pam Robinson
 Monica House
 Diana Dillon
 Margie Hermanson
 Valerie Summersille-Hahn

SITM meets every Thursday noon at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, 3800 South Virginia Street in Reno, second floor convention center. For reservations www.sitruckeemeadows@hotmail.com. no later than 7 p.m. on the Monday before the meeting. Lunch is \$19.

Soroptimist is an international organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world.



For information about our organization, check out these Soroptimist Websites:
 Sierra Nevada Region: www.soroptimistsnr.org
 Soroptimist International of the Americas: www.soroptimist.org
 Soroptimist International: www.soroptimistinternational.org



Did you know . . .



December Birthday Celebration

SITM members celebrating birthdays at the December Business Meeting were, from left: Cindy Burk, Patti Dory, Barbara Atwell, Penney Leezy and Harmony Hobbs. Each shared some insights into their "favorites" in life and were serenaded with a singing of Happy Birthday.



Scarves for Bristlecone

When not busy enough with other SITM projects, some members hand-crocheted approximately 40 scarves, which were delivered to Bristlecone Family Resources for their clients at Christmas. Pam Robinson and Kay Dunham crocheted scarves and Bev Perkins crocheted scarf/hat sets.